

Sechelt language

The **Sechelt language**, *Sháshíshálh* or *Shashishalhem* (IPA: [ʃáʃíʃáɬəm]), is a Coast Salish language spoken by the Shishalh (Sechelt) people of the Pacific Northwest Coast. It is spoken in the area now called southwestern British Columbia, Canada, centred on their reserve communities in the Sechelt Peninsula area of the Sunshine Coast.

In 1999, the language was spoken by fewer than 40 elderly people.^[3] A grammar of the language by linguist Ron Beaumont was published in 1985.^[4]

They now only have 7 elderly/fluent speakers, but have many teachers that teach children from preschool all the way through till high school. UBC, Vancouver and Okanagan offers language courses, that give students the opportunity to learn various languages, Shashishalhem being one of the few^[5]

In 2014, the Coastal Corridor Consortium, "an entity made up of board members from First Nations and educational partners to improve aboriginal access to and performance in postsecondary education and training", created a Sechelt Nation language certificate.^[6]

Sechelt is most closely related to Squamish, Halkomelem, and the Nooksack.

Although endangered, the Sechelt people, with help from others, have reclaimed 603 phrases and 5659 words in total.^[5]

Sechelt	
<i>Sháshíshálh</i>	
Pronunciation	[ʃáʃíʃáɬ]
Native to	Canada
Region	British Columbia
Ethnicity	1,200 Sechelt people (2014, FPCC) ^[1]
Native speakers	4 (2014, FPCC) ^[1]
Language family	Salishan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Coast Salish<ul style="list-style-type: none">Central<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sechelt
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	sec
Glottolog	sech1246 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/sech1246) ^[2]

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Phonology

Consonants

		<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>		<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>		<u>Uvular</u>		<u>Glottal</u>
			<u>central</u>	<u>lateral</u>		<u>plain</u>	<u>rounded</u>	<u>plain</u>	<u>rounded</u>	
<u>Stop</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	p	t			k	k ^w	q	q ^w	ʔ
	<u>ejective</u>	p′	t′			k′	k′ ^w	q′	q′ ^w	
<u>Affricate</u>	<u>voiceless</u>		ts		tʃ					
	<u>ejective</u>		ts′	tɬ′	tʃ′					
<u>Nasal</u>		m	n							
<u>Fricative</u>			s	ɬ	ʃ	x	x ^w	χ	χ ^w	h
<u>Approximant</u>				l	j		w			

Vowels

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>Close</u>	i		u
<u>Mid</u>		ə	
<u>Open</u>		a	

The four vowel sounds may also have the allophones [æ, ɪ~ʊ~ʌ, e, o].^[7]

See also

- Shishalh
- Sechelt, British Columbia

References

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External links

- [First Nations Languages of British Columbia Sechelt page \(http://www.ydli.org/langs/sechelt.htm\)](http://www.ydli.org/langs/sechelt.htm)
- [OLAC resources in and about the Sechelt language \(http://www.language-archives.org/language/sec\)](http://www.language-archives.org/language/sec)

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